



DEVONSHIRE DISPATCH

www.devonshireprimary.org

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14th September 2018

Devonshire Diary

Week beginning 17th September and 1st October Year 6 bikeability courses

Tuesday 18th September (3.30pm) - Y3 meet the teacher session (come in through the main entrance)

Wednesday 19th September (3.30pm) – Year 2 meet the teacher session (come in through the main entrance)

Thursday 20th September (3.30pm) – Year 1 meet the teacher session (come in through the main entrance)

Monday 24th September - Willow and Pine class working with Mike Mullen (BMX rider)

Thursday 27th September - Year 5 trip to Chessington

Thursday 27th September - Year 6 RE day

Friday 28th September - Harvest festival

Monday 1st October - Year 3 trip to Chessington

Tuesday 16th October - school closes early for parents' consultation sessions. (1.20pm for Reception and KS1 and 1.30pm for KS2)

Welcome Back

It is lovely to see all the children in their new classes, all looking very smart and ready for the learning opportunities that the year ahead holds. This week our new Reception and Nursery children have started school and we hope that they will be very happy at Devonshire.

We extend a warm welcome to all of our families who are new to the Devonshire community.

Four new teachers are joining our team. Mrs Harrison is our new assistant headteacher with responsibility for inclusion. Miss Byfield joins our Year 5 team, as the Holly class teacher, Miss Messenger joins our Year 3 team, as the Aspen class teacher and Miss Walton joins our Year 1 team, as the Nightingales class teacher.

There are always new routines to learn when a child goes in to a new class. All of the information shared at the meet the teacher sessions will be sent home to parents/carers in a letter so that everyone receives this information.

There are members of the senior leadership team at the front of the school at the beginning and end of the school day. We are always more than happy to answer a question that you may have, have a chat with you or offer a cheery good morning or afternoon to you. This is a really important and enjoyable part of our day; greeting the children and parents.

Attendance and Punctuality

So far this term, 9 classes have attendance that is at least 96%; those classes are Eagles, Larks, Ash, Chestnut, Cherry, Hazel, Sycamore, Willow and Oak, with Larks class currently having the highest attendance of 99.6 %. Our Reception classes are not included in this week's attendance as they have only just started doing full days at school.

This year we are having an increased focus on punctuality. It is so important that children arrive at school on time so that they are ready to start their learning with the rest of the class. Arriving to class late is disruptive for everyone's learning; children are missing out on valuable learning time. It is also detrimental to the child's self-esteem as they are not starting the school day with their friends and are having to catch up with their learning which the class will have already started. Please leave enough time for your child to arrive at school on time. The school doors open at 8.40am and from that time onwards there will be a teacher in the classroom. The school doors close at 8.55am; arriving after this time means you are late and you will need to sign your child in at the office. Please come and speak to us if you have difficulties getting to school on time.

Good news

We have been awarded the silver games mark for our commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive sport in 2017/18. This is an important recognition of the work that we do in school, providing children with a range of physical activities and of course the introduction of our 'Active for 15' initiative which will continue this year. Thank you to Miss Newton, our PE leader, who co-ordinated our work towards this award. We will of course be aiming for the gold mark now!

School development

Our school has a set of 3 year objectives detailing what we want to achieve over the next 3 years. These can be found on our website. This year, the areas that we are particularly focusing on are attendance, behaviour, challenge and enrichment. We will be talking to the children about these areas and why they are important, not only for school development but for them as learners. I will also be feeding back to you about what we are doing in these areas and the impact of what we are doing.

Parent workshops

Mrs Harrison, our new assistant headteacher, and Mrs Green, our family support worker, will be running workshops for parents/carers during the year. There will be one each term (15th November, 16th January and 3rd July) all taking place at 2pm in the school hall. They will be ideal opportunities for the school and parents/carers to work together to provide the best possible outcomes for the children. More details will be sent to parents/carers nearer the time but for the moment, put the dates in your diary.

Health and Safety reminders

Please do not allow your child to play in the school car park or in the bushes at the edge of it. The car park is in constant use and staff must be able to use it knowing that there will be no children playing in it.

Please keep the path at the front of the school clear; this is essential for us to be able to dismiss the children swiftly and efficiently. Waiting on this path makes it congested and difficult for children to make their way to their parents/carers. For the same reason, please do not block the stairs that many of the children use to get to their parents/carers. Parents/carers have been given allocated places to wait (which were emailed out to them the day before term started); waiting in these places avoids unnecessary congestion.

Lost property

Our lost property area is filling up. Please check that your child has got all of their belongings and if they have not, it might be worth a trip to lost property. When we find lost property, it makes it so much easier to return it to the correct child if it is named. Please do name your children's clothes, including their shoes and plimsols

Christ Church

Every Wednesday morning, Christ Church has a 'Community Wednesday' from 9am – 1pm where its doors are open to everyone. Tea and coffee will be available as well as the opportunity to meet new people and chat. There is also a new play area for 0 – 3 year olds that can be used by young children.

Devonshire musicians

As part of our extra curricular activities, we have a variety of musical instrument lessons that parents can pay for their children to have. Instruments that the children can have lessons in are keyboard, violin, guitar, flute and recorder. As part of their lessons, children work towards achieving specific grades. This week, I gave out some flute certificates to 3 of our children. Well done Lia who achieved grade 1, Divya who achieved grade 2 and Richa who achieved grade 4.

Home Start

Homestart is a voluntary organisation supporting families with a young child under the age of five and who are struggling. They are currently looking to recruit volunteers to visit families in their own home for a couple of hours each week to offer emotional and practical support and friendship.

They have a Preparation Course that will be starting on Tuesday 9th October 9.30am – 2.30pm for eight Tuesdays (excluding the October half term) with the last session being on Tuesday 4th December. Expenses are paid.

To find out more or to apply for a volunteer application pack please contact:-

Home-Start Sutton on 020 8647 6501 (admin@homestartsutton.org.uk).

An enhanced DBS check and references will be undertaken. Home-Start Sutton positively encourages people with parenting skills from all sections of the community to volunteer.

Sutton Police Station

Sutton Police Station has an open day on Sunday 23rd September from 11am – 4pm (last entry is 3.30pm). This will be an interesting opportunity to learn more about the work that the police do, see inside the police station and take part in the fun activities on offer during the open day.